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Letter dated 12 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a communiqué issued on 11 November 2001 by the Central Organ at its fifth extraordinary session, at Ministerial level, held in New York (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mwelwa C. **Musambachime**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its fifth extraordinary session at Ministerial level on 11 November 2001 in New York

At the request of the Republic of the Sudan, the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its fifth extraordinary session at ministerial level on 11 November 2001, in New York, on the margins of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The session was convened to deliberate on the problem of terrorism and to consider ways by which Africa can further contribute to the efforts by the international community to combat this scourge, in the light of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States of America.

The session was chaired by Mr. Keli Walubita, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ decided as follows:

The Central Organ:

1. *Reiterates* the unequivocal condemnation by the OAU of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States of America and its solidarity and that of the African people with the Government and people of the United States of America. It further reiterates its condemnation and total rejection of terrorism, which is a negation of the teachings of the revealed religions and human values;

2. *Reaffirms* resolution AHG/Res.213(XXVIII) on the strengthening of cooperation and coordination among African States adopted at the 28th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 29 June to 1 July 1992, declaration AHG/Decl.2(XXX) on the Code of Conduct for Inter-African Relations, adopted by the 30th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 13 to 15 June 1994, and decision AHG/Dec.132(XXXV) on the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted by the 35th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 July 2001;

3. *Stresses* that terrorism, as a universal phenomenon that is not associated with any particular religion, culture or race, constitutes a serious violation of human rights, in particular, the rights to physical integrity, life, freedom and security; and that it poses a threat to the stability and security of States and impedes their socio-economic development;

4. *Also stresses* that terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstance and, consequently, that it should be combated in all its forms and manifestations, including those in which States are involved directly or indirectly, without regard to its origin, causes and objectives;

5. *Further stresses* the relevance of the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which constitutes an adequate framework for collective African reaction against terrorism, as part of the efforts by the international community. In this respect, the Central Organ *urges* OAU Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention so as to ensure its early entry into force;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001) by the United Nations Security Council on 28 September 2001, as well as its previous resolutions related to terrorism, and *requests* Member States to ensure their effective follow-up and implementation;

7. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify, without any further delay, International conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 9 December 1999, and *calls upon* all States parties to these instruments to fully and effectively implement their provisions;

8. *Welcomes* the Declaration against Terrorism adopted by the African Summit held in Dakar on 17 October 2001, including the proposal to prepare a draft additional protocol to the OAU Convention on Terrorism in conformity with the provisions of article 21 of the said Convention;

9. *Reiterates* the need for the international community to work in a more coordinated and determined manner to combat terrorism, under the aegis of the United Nations, and to adopt a global strategy to address the scourge of terrorism in a comprehensive manner. In this regard, the Central Organ further reiterates decision AHG/Dec.132(XXXV) adopted by the 35th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which, inter alia, called for the convening of an international conference at summit level under the auspices of the United Nations to elaborate an international strategy to combat terrorism.